

of their sines, which in no case affects the result in any sensible degree), and the results of computation may be depended upon within a hundredth part of a second of right ascension if the data are correct, and a considerable error in the estimated longitude, will, I think, be found to have as little injurious effect as in any other method of computation.

“*Bombay, May 1, 1844.*”

V. Some Remarks on the Great Comet of 1843, as seen in the neighbourhood of Paramatta, New South Wales. By the Rev. W. B. Clarke. Communicated by Sir John Herschel.

The principal point to which the author directed his attention, during the time of the visibility of the comet, was the fact of the existence of a small train of light inclined at a small angle to the large train.

His own observations were corroborated by those of the Bishop of Australia, who had made distinct notes of its appearance. His lordship says:—

“On the evenings of Thursday the 2d instant, and again on Saturday the 4th, my attention was drawn to the remarkable spectacle of a definite portion of the tail being deflected from the axis, or direction in which the general body of light continued to proceed. Perhaps, about one-sixth of the train might be thus drawn aside from that which may be termed the natural direction, so as to form therewith, at the point of separation, an angle which I should calculate to be about three degrees Five-sixths of the whole body of light continued without interruption in the ordinary direction, the remainder deviating from it in the manner here stated.”

VI. Observations made at the Observatory of Hamburg. By C. Rumker, Esq. Communicated by Dr. Lee.

The observations consist of:

1. Continuation of the Meridian Observations of the Moon from 1840, August 7, to 1841, February 12.
2. Observations of the Eclipse of the Moon of 1844, May 31.
3. Observations of *Pallas* and *Ceres* during their opposition, May 1844.

VII. Scheme of Planetary Elements. By S. M. Drach, Esq.

The Chairman reported to the Meeting, that her Majesty's Government had recently put the Society in possession of the remainder of the apartments under the ground floor; and that, after some necessary repairs, they will be ready for the reception of various instruments, books, &c. belonging to the Society, which have been hitherto deposited in various places without that regard to order and arrangement, which it will be possible to give them with the present enlarged accommodations of the Society.

II. A cast taken from Sir Francis Chantrey's marble bust of Mrs. Somerville, presented by Frederick S. Archer, Esq.

III. Several copies of "Plane Tables for conveniently laying down Portions of a Celestial or Terrestrial Map," constructed by the late Rev. Francis Wollaston, presented by his daughter, Miss A. H. Wollaston.

The President announced that the office of Judge (for Great Britain) of the fulfilment of the conditions necessary for the award of the Comet Medal, offered by his Majesty Christian VIII., king of Denmark, having become vacant, his Majesty had been pleased to appoint him (the Astronomer Royal) to succeed to that office, and he read to the Meeting the conditions under which the medal would be granted from the *Monthly Notices*, Vol. III., p. 132.

For the convenience of Fellows and others who may not have the volume of the *Monthly Notices* at hand, the regulations are here reprinted, with the alterations which have been made in consequence of the death of Mr. Baily and Dr. Olbers of Bremen :—

"His Majesty the King of Denmark has been pleased to found a gold medal, of the value of twenty ducats, to be given to the first discoverer of a telescopic comet, subject to the following conditions, which are, in some respects, different from those published in the year 1832.

"1. The medal is to be given to the person who may first discover a telescopic comet (that is, a comet not visible to the naked eye at the time of its discovery), and not of known revolution.

"2. The discoverer, if in any part of Europe except Great Britain, must send *immediate* notice to Professor Schumacher, of Altona; and if in Great Britain, or any other quarter of the globe except Europe, must send *immediate* notice to G. B. Airy, Esq., Astronomer Royal, Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

"3. Such notice must be sent by the *first* post after the discovery, and in case no post should be established in the place, then by the *first* conveyance that presents itself, without waiting for more observations. A strict attention to this condition is absolutely necessary, for, when it is not complied with, the medal will not be awarded at all, if there be only one who has seen the comet; and, where it has been seen by more than one, it will be given to the discoverer next in order of time who does comply with this condition.

"4. The first notice should contain, not only the time of the discovery, as nearly as the same can be ascertained, in order to avoid any disputed claims, but also the best possible determination of the position of the comet, and the direction of its course, if these points can (even approximately) be ascertained from the observations of one night.

"5. If the first night's observations are not sufficient to determine all these points with sufficient accuracy, the discoverer must, as soon as he gets a second observation, send *another* communi-

cation as above directed, together with a statement of the longitude of the place, if it should not be a known observatory : but the hope of getting a second observation will not be admitted as an excuse for delaying the communication of the first.

“ 6. The medal is to be adjudged twelve months after the discovery of the comet, and no claim can be admitted after that period has elapsed.

“ 7. Professor Schumacher and Mr. Airy are to determine whether a discovery is to be considered as established or not : but should they differ in opinion, Professor Gauss, of Göttingen, is to decide between them.”

The President then announced that, in pursuance of a resolution of the Council, which had been duly intimated to the Fellows, as required by the Bye-Laws, the business of the Ordinary Meeting would now be concluded, and that a Special General Meeting would be held immediately, for the purpose of hearing read a Memoir of the late President, which Sir John Herschel, upon the request of the Council, had undertaken to prepare.